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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

February 22, 1979

2/22/79
Argentina
AKØ48 F

Dear Chuck and Pat -----

I am in an overload situation with information here, so will hunt and peck out a short note to you all to bring you up to speed on a number of topics. I ask your pardon for my many typos. Here goes ----

Bravo Case

Bravo is running scared of the new chief of the Federal Police General Sassain (sp?) who is a known hardliner and was in charge of security operations in La Plata at the time of Bravo's previous arrest. After much internal and family debate, he has decided to wait it out and hope for the best. He has met with both Freeman and me the last few weeks for detailed discussions of his problems. In short, he hopes to stay but if the government or any division thereof shakes his tree, he will run.

Vollenweider Job

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): 1/2

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date _____ Reason _____

2/22/85 F.A. Harris

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82D103
Box 17404

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New Themes

There are several new themes on the human rights front which I have not been able to get out in messages. I have failed twice, if I fail next week. I will have to go out with a dissent message.

Shift to soft ideological targets -----

We stressed this in the messages for the Secretary

My analysis of the disappearance data since the World Cup shows a clear shift towards anti-subversive operations against soft Marxist ideological targets. The spectrum of radical mini parties and movements has had their leadership and activists "processed" in the last six months. Included in this group is the Vanguardia Comunista (see memcon), PCR, PST, FIP, and the Movement of Christians for Liberation. These organizations have been targeted, the activists abducted, tortured. The top and most able leaders do not return. The second rung folks go under some form of long term detention. And the little fry get turned out. The end result is that each mini party is destroyed by the repressive system.

No Drop in Disappearances in 1978-----

I think we covered this in the message -

The Embassy ran with my analysis of August showing that there was a significant drop between disappearances in the first six months of 1978 and the last six months of 1977. However the data now shows that there is little or no drop in operations reported to the Embassy during 1978. Even with incomplete data for the last half of 1978 due to the lag in reporting. We now have a monthly average of 42 reported disappearances compared with 52 cases for the first six months of the year. The quantitative decline that the Embassy talks about occurred a year ago. The GOA has gotten full credit for that. The new data shows that there has been a leveling off of operations (against softer targets) in 1978 at about 50 per month.

Clandestine Prisoners -----

This is new info -

We are getting more and more reports of clandestine prisoners. The Acceptance which we all made of the Army's statement that there were no more than 500 prisoners still alive, is not open. Yesterday, I received a report of a facility within the city limits of BA with between 200 and 300 clandestine prisoners. Today, I received a map of another facility in the city. We don't know how many there are, but the new information has shaken my opinion that the number is probably low. (We have also gotten three reports of rehabilitation farms (granjas) in the last few weeks.) The Commissions visit is flushing out a lot of information. I only wish I had a way of getting it ~~XXXXXX~~ out faster.

Cheers to you both, build a snow man for us

CC The Ambassador

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